

# California Garden

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mrs Mary A. Greer, President  
Woodcrest 2267

Mr. Silas B. Osborn, Vice-President

Mr. Arthur M. Shoven, Treasurer  
J-7188

Mrs. S. H. Carse  
Mrs Robert Morrison  
Mr. Arthur M. Shoven  
Mrs. J. Terrell Scott  
W. Allen Perry

Mrs. DeForrest Ward, Secretary  
Woodcrest 5022

Member  
American Rose Society  
California Fuchsia Society

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
P. O. Box 323, San Diego 12, Calif.

Silas B. Osborn, Editor  
Alice M. Clark, Associate Editor  
Ida Louise Bryant, Associate Editor

MARCH, 1945

Vol. 36

No. 1

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year;  
Membership \$1.50 per year; Magazine  
and Membership combined, \$2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month  
at Theosophical Society, 4th at Olive.  
7:30 P. M.

## Cymbidium and Other Orchids

By HUGH EVANS, Santa Monica

For people who own lath-houses or have trees which afford a light shade during the heat of the day, there are no plants which will give as much color and bloom for seven or eight months, as Cymbidium Orchids, the earliest of which often come into flower in November and the latest bloom into late July. Their successful culture presents no problem, the main and most important consideration being the matter of perfect drainage. Where there is any question about the drainage, it is a simple matter to raise the area in which they are planted, and, as these Orchids are shallow rooting, raising the border a foot is usually sufficient, though eighteen inches is even better. We use a compost of top soil, leaf mold and decomposed granite in about equal parts, with a little bone meal mixed in, bean straw, if available, is also excellent. When the Cymbidiums are set in the ground, care should be exercised to see that the pseudo-bulbs are well above the ground, and only the base of the bulb beneath. A permanent mulch of leaf mold or bean straw should be maintained over the entire area, to keep the shallow feeding roots cool and to prevent any baking of the ground surface by sun or rain action.

If the soil is naturally very light and dries out easily, peat may be used in place of leaf mold, but for most soils leaf mold is preferable. These Orchids should never be planted in heavy shade, as they need plenty of

light to produce flowers. In a lath-house, the laths should be about their own width apart, in fact, in a cool situation near the coast, the lath can be even more widely spaced without any danger. As these Orchids occur naturally, for the most part, at relatively high elevations in Burma, Northern India and contiguous territory, where, for a large part of the year, there is considerable atmospheric moisture, they appreciate daily drenching of the foliage in warm weather, care being used to keep the water off the flowers as much as possible. The matter of fertilizers for Cymbidiums is decidedly a question of individual opinion, some of the best growers applying cow manure pretty liberally, and others using no fertilizer at all. For our part, we apply a light mulch of cow manure, free from weed seed, about every other year, and the plants are certainly healthy and happy with this treatment, some large clumps having carried more than 250 flowers on 13 sprays at one time. If the plants are over-stimulated, particularly with too much nitrogen, there is the danger of producing foliage at the expense of flowers.

So far as irrigation is concerned (not to be confused with drenching of the foliage in hot weather, previously alluded to), this is an operation depending on the weather, the nature of the soil, the age and size of the plants, etc. We thoroughly soak our plants three or four times a year, and not oftener, as our subsoil is very heavy. In sandy or granite soils a

thorough soaking once a month is probably necessary.

All of the foregoing remarks should be taken as applying to plants in the ground. On the other hand, many growers, professional and amateur, grow these orchids to perfection in pots or tubs. As the ordinary unglazed pot dries out rapidly in hot weather, the pots should be plunged. For Cymbidiums grown in containers, extra care must be taken to insure perfect drainage. Plenty of broken crocks, rocks, gravel or granite should be put in for a considerable depth and the potting mixture should be about the same as specified at the beginning of this article. Periodical fertilizing for the plants in containers will be found necessary, to replace the food being leached out by drainage after watering, weak cow manure water probably being the safest thing to use, though one very successful grower occasionally uses sulphate of ammonia in the proportion of one teaspoonful to ten gallons of water.

As these beautiful and hardy Orchids become better known, they will surely be planted in ever increasing numbers, as the flowers and plants will endure several degrees of frost without any damage at all.

In view of the fact that the flowers last on the plant from six to ten and, sometimes, twelve weeks, and, when cut and placed in a vase, for several weeks, and that they range through almost every shade of color, carrying so many flowers spikes, some varieties bearing over thirty flowers to a single spike, and considering their grace and beauty and fine, evergreen foliage, it is impossible to imagine a more charming picture than a grouping of these plants in full bloom. At their best,

(Continued on page 2)

## *Cymbidium and Other Orchids*

(Continued from page 1)

they are almost breath-taking in their general effect!

There are, in addition to *Cymbidiums*, various other terrestrial Orchids, which are perfectly happy grown in a lath or cloth-house without any heat. *Sobralias* growing from two to four feet high, bloom during June, July and August. The flowers are large, rather resembling *Cattleya* flowers, the colors range through white, yellow, lavender, blue and orchid, and, while the individual flowers only last for a few days, they are produced in succession from the terminals of the bamboo-like stems.

*Cypripedium insigne* (Lady's Slipper) and many others *Cypripediums* succeed admirably in the ground, though the last named orchids require more shade than *Cymbidiums*.

Growing most Epiphytal Orchids under lath without any artificial heat is, to some extent, still in a more or less experimental stage, although we have found the following quite amenable to such conditions:

*Laelia autumnalis* winter, *L. anceps* winter-spring, *L. grandiflora* spring; *Lycaste Skinneri* winter-spring, *L. Aromatica* winter-spring; *Odontoglossum grande* autumn-winter, *O. bictoniense* autumn-winter, *O. Pulchellum* autumn-winter; many *Epidendrums*, both terrestrial and epiphytal; several of the *Oncidiums*, usually bearing many flowers in long sprays; various *Stanhopeas*, which must be grown in open baskets, as the flowers drop from the sides or bottom of the baskets. When epiphytal Orchids are grown under lath or cloth, it is important, in hot weather, to keep the atmosphere as cool and moist as possible. A very fine overhead sprinkling system which can be turned on for a short time is very helpful.

When the Orchids are forming flower spikes, it is important to guard against the plant becoming too dry, as the spikes may wither and dry up; though with ordinary care there is very little danger. In cool or cold weather, the Orchids will need little or no water, and in no circumstances should they be soaked until they are dry.

Apart from *Cattleyas*, which we grow in straight osmunda, we have found that most of the Orchid species succeed well in a compost of broken

## *Decidious Fruits—A Review*

By ROLAND S. HOYT

Spring is the time of blossoming fruit trees with marvelously textured and delicately tinted visions of future happy events . . . the fruiting. Unfortunately this is truer of cold climates, yet here in subtropical regions we are conscious of this fleeting pag-eant and now is the time to do something about it. Our plantings of deciduous fruits must of climatic necessity have intelligent direction if they are to perform with anything like the verve that is expected and easily possible further north. We should know that certain varieties of peach, as Babcock, can be expected to fruit better along the coast; that others like Lukens will take the extreme heat inland and not falter. Hovering in the background of our thinking and overall consideration must be this matter of delayed foliation which is of prime importance in warm countries.

Then, too, we must remember that we can't grow cherries along the coast, but that the best of crops are obtainable on the higher hills inland and on into the mountains. If we care to waste a little time and space on a notion and plant an apple tree in the coastal area, we'll look to proven varieties such as White Pearmain or Winter Banana and not expect too much. There is something about an apple-blossom however, that unhinges the faculties and there are those who will try the newer Valmore . . . hope rides high, wide and relentlessly with us all. We'll look to the deeper soils when we plant nut trees and improvise

down or decomposed osmunda and well rotted leaf mold, with, of course, ample drainage at the bottom of the pot or basket.

I have, personally, been growing some of the *Laelias* without heat for more than forty years, and have had baskets produce as many as sixteen flower spikes, though so many is unusual.

The point I have been trying to bring out is that there are a number of Orchids, particularly from Central America, which can be grown in our coastal regions, without any heat, which are easily grown, and which will adorn any patio or lath-house with their lovely and interesting flowers.

a further reason such as shade. And if we haven't plenty of ground, with some kinds, for varieties to cross-pollinate, we won't plant them at all.

Now this all leads up to a new book, *Fruits for the Home Garden* by U. P. Hedrick, the Oxford Press, 1944, \$3.00. This little book would not be so important here in the subtropics if it were not for the Author's standing in the horticultural world and the fact that much of his last word information on culture can be adapted. Only don't become excited over currants and gooseberries which are not permitted even where they will grow . . . and how many blackcaps have you seen lately?

This work is primarily for the half-time rancher the Chamber of Commerce is building up for our future. It is for anyone so situated as to touch on the growing of a few deciduous fruit trees. It is most concise, compact and compressed with the absolute essentials the gardener or small fruit farmer should be reading about. Each subject group is treated in short, pithy discussions on site, soils, diseases to expect and their control, when to pick and how to prune, what varieties . . . be careful. At this point it is respectfully suggested that a check be made of the desirable varieties suited to the far south.

I know of no comparable recent work for the retired banker or other restless abdicant. It will afford him a complete picture of his activities beforehand and if some of the joys must be picked out from between the lines, the pitfalls are surely there.

### FRUIT TREE BIRD SNARE

"I know of one gardener who uses an interesting method to keep the birds away. After he prunes and sprays the trees he uses heavy sewing thread, and runs the web-like lines from limb to limb and criss-crosses them. The birds have an instinctive aversion into getting tangled up, and therefore give the threaded trees a wide berth. Those of you who are skeptical of this suggestion should try it on one of your trees and see if it works. Next year you can do it all of them."

J. J. Littlefield, *Golden Gardens*



# Smoke Tree . . . . .

By DR. T. A. D. COCKERELL, Palm Springs

In the arid regions of the world, the leaves of plants are often greatly reduced or wanting, an adaptation which prevents excessive evaporation. The whole Cactus family, with very many species, follows this rule. In the African deserts we see what appear to be cacti; but are in fact members of another family of plants, having milky juice. There are indeed plenty of prickly pear cacti in Africa, but they have been introduced from America, originally for the purpose of feeding the cochineal insect. Also in Africa we find little desert plants, looking exactly like stones, until the delicate flowers appear. Among all these leafless or nearly leafless plants of dry regions, the Smoke Tree is one of the most famous. It has, when very young according to Jaeger, broad leaves like ordinary plants, but these soon disappear, and the grown plant appears leafless, and very spiny. The fragrant dark blue flowers appear in June and July, and hence are not seen by the majority of visitors to Palm Springs, who sometimes think there are no flowers. The actual discoverer of the Smoke Tree appears to have been the famous John C. Fremont, who in addition to his numerous other occupations, collected plants. He brought back a fragmentary specimen in 1849, but three years later George Thurber, of the Mexican Boundary Commission, procured good material, and Asa Gray, professor of Botany at Harvard University, was able to describe it, calling it *Dalea spinosa*. C. F. Saunders gives an interesting account of Thurber. "For four years (1850-54) he was an industrious collector along the Mexican border and added greatly to the knowledge of its Botany—an excellent botanist and one of the best hearted of men, according to his companions. There are, perhaps, some still living who remember his genial Doctors Talks for the children in the American Agriculturist, of which for twenty years he was the editor."

The genus *Dalea* or *Parosela* has several species in our desert country, but the Smoke Tree is much the largest and most modified. Other species, such

as the Emory *Dalea*, the California *Dalea* and the Fremont *Dalea*, are permanently leafy. The genus is named after an English botanist, Samuel Dale (1659-1739), and includes about 150 species, chiefly Mexican, but also found in South America. It is one of the numerous forms of life which have extended from the south into our southwestern arid region, but this took place so long ago that distinct species have evolved. In Jaeger's book, *Desert Wild Flowers*, the genus is called *Parosela*. It appears that this is actually the older name and should have priority, but the International Botanical Congress voted to keep the name *Dalea*, which was in general use. This was rather unfortunate because of confusion with *Dahlia* which many people pronounce Day-lia. There is a Mexican species, *Dalea mutabilis*, which is cultivated in greenhouses. Attempts have been made to dig up and transplant the smoke tree, but they have not been successful. However, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Leigh, of Smoke Tree Ranch, have found that it can easily be raised from seed. The seeds are sown in a can or some such receptacle, and after they have sprouted, the bottom of the can is removed, and it is planted in the ground. The roots will enter the ground below, and the can may be removed. Jaeger says that in the wild the seeds sprout following showers and hot days. "Their further development is however, very dependent upon well-spaced timely summer downpours. Most of the small plants succumb because of drought, and many of those remaining are suffocated under sand washed over them during subsequent summer sheet floods. They are always in the bottoms of loose sandy washes in the very path of the rush of waters." The smoke tree is found in the Colorado desert and the southern part of the Mohave desert, in what is called the Lower Sonoran Life Zone. It extends into Arizona and southward into Northern Sonora and lower California. The popular name is of course derived from its appearance, suggesting smoke. It is sometimes called Tree-pea, and among the Mexicans Palo Blanco, the white tree.

# *Penstemon,* *San Diego's Own*

By ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

To the kaleidoscopic ribbon of color which borders our highways, the *Penstemons* add many an interesting note, from the coast to the mountains and from the foothills to the desert.

First a note about the name, *Penstemons*, which explains somewhat the common name applied to some of the species and also the special feature which characterizes the group. The name *Penstemon* points out the abortive fifth stamen belonging to this genus, but the scientific dictum that if first misspelled, always misspelled, makes *Penstemon*, an utterly meaningless word, the official name. This fifth stamen is in some species densely bearded which gives the common name of Beardtongue.

Our coast species is *P. cordifolius*. This is a semi-climbing plant which comes up through other shrubs, bearing bright green heart-shaped leaves and clusters of scarlet flowers, an inch and a half long. It is sometimes carelessly called wild "honeysuckle".

Two mountain forms, *P. bridgesii* and *P. labrosus*, both bearing scarlet flowers, form banks of color along the winding roads on Palomar.

Scarlet again is the keynote of the most common of the desert dwellers the Scarlet Bugler (*P. centranthifolius*) which, with its long straight panicles of numerous tubular flowers, covers wide spaces in our desert with its glowing mantle of brilliant color.

A rare species of the desert is *P. ambiguus* var. *thurberi*. Found near San Felipe, it is of an unusual color, rose pink. The flowers are small comparatively only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length. *P. Clevelandii*, another desert species, has flowers variously described as pink and as purplish red.

In the foothill canyons and even along the road are found several of unusual beauty. I will never forget my first acquaintance with *P. spectabilis*. This is called "violet beardtongue" although violet hardly describes its color. In my earlier days in California I first saw this beautiful plant in masses which seemingly covered acres, spread under the live oak trees near what is now the Santa Anita Race

(Continued on page 11)

# Troublesome Plants

By IDA L. BRYANT, *Associate Editor*

First and foremost, that curse of California gardens, Bermuda grass, common name devil grass. Remembering the axiom that a weed is a plant out of place we admit that our golf courses, parks and private lawns wouldn't amount to much if it weren't for Bermuda to stay them through the long rainless summer. The inhabitants of the hot inland valleys cherish Bermuda, too: they rim he lawns with cement edging so that they may be flooded and kept green. And perhaps so it won't escape into the surrounding orchards? That seems an idea worth pursuing—use for a six-inch concrete barrier around the lawn to keep the Bermuda grass in its rightful habitat.

There are Californians who devote their whole waking existence to keeping their lawns free of Bermuda grass. It is almost impossible for them to keep on friendly terms with their neighbors, who invariably permit the devilish stuff to flourish unrestrainedly in their lawns, as though it were of no consequence. Is it?

We have been assured in all seriousness by Bermudaphobes that the seeds are brought in to those lovely soft bluegrass and clover farms so vivid and beautiful and weedless (for the first year), by the water. And this, after all the filtering and chlorination and bluestoning our city water goes through between mountain reservoirs and the meter through which it is measured out to the householder. No es posible! One would think, to hear these blighted spirits mourning over their Bermuda-infested lawns that city water came out of the hydrants soupy with seed, thick as puree Mongole!

We know from bitter experience that merely scooping Bermuda out of garden beds and paths will not permanently remove it. Even the handsome long-handled tool with an isosceles triangle of shiny metal at the correct angle for scrape-cutting won't do the trick. As top and root pruning often bring results with shy flowering or bearing shrubs and trees, so it does wonders, always, for the vigor and fertility of Bermuda.

As far as chemical weed-killers are concerned we have tried one brand, and found that it worked, nine times

out of ten. But putting the end of the Bermuda streamer into a bottle or can containing the solution and waiting for the plant to die a lingering death, to the last rootlet, seems too slow a process for a gardener who wants to see things move.

We conclude that the only sure way of getting rid of Bermuda is the hard way. Through spading, with every tiniest node and joint picked or sifted out of the earth, and burned, will abate it. In the case of trees or shrubs that should not have their roots disturbed by spading, soaking the basins thoroughly, and then with sleeves rolled to the shoulder, (swim or sun suits are the ideal costume) carefully and painfully pursuing each stem to the end will dispose of it, for a while. Perhaps the nurserymen know a quick, sure method, but keep it within the fraternity.

Did anyone ever get rid of it once and for all, anyway? We would think not, for it takes never-ending vigilance as it does for live pests. Only the merest gardening infant would expect to lay all the aphids low with one large spraying, all the snails and slugs in their slimy tracks with one dose of snail-bait. It is reported that a local man had his garden free of Bermuda all last summer, but his wife went away for a visit, and "it sort of got ahead of him." As with garlic there is no such thing as a little Bermuda. Confidentially, it comes in the water!

Another grass that has been causing this family no end of trouble lately is, if anything, more persistent than Bermuda. Popularly known as bamboo, it is one of the larger members of the Gramineae, or grass-family. "How We Escaped From the Jungle" will be a familiar story to many a gardener who has a weakness for tropical effects. A group of inadvertent bamboo-plantation owners holding an experience meeting can outlie a group of fishermen, any day.

This bambusa that the nursery catalogs describe so endearingly, as "growing easily in almost every location; their noble clumps of graceful stems, their wealth of soft green foliage and their informal lines of symmetry make them indispensable for certain land-

scape effects." In all fairness, at least during Be Kind to Customers Week, they should give a few simple hints as to what bambusa is capable of doing to a garden. Put in along a fence, for example, and left to itself for ten years or so (it was twenty, in the case of the jungle we are struggling to subdue) it will make an impenetrable thicket, in places over forty feet high. We have found that the roots travel laterally more than twenty feet, and from three to five feet down—we haven't dug any deeper.

Novices in the bamboo business, we discovered our encirclement quite casually recently when we were preparing holes for bare-root fruit trees—the "five dollar hole for a fifty cent tree" that Miss Sessions spoke of so often. Now they're apt to be five dollar trees, too, though. The spade made a peculiar squeaking noise as it cut into the sandy loam we are blessed with, and we discovered that the tiny crinkly roots that filled the ground, literally, came from the bamboos.

Our little trees would have no chance at all against such competition, so we dug the holes twice as large as necessary (ten dollar holes) planted our trees, and concentrated on our problem: how can we circumvent that clump of graceful green foliage?

We had found bamboo most useful, about three years ago; it was on someone else's grounds. Friends on a ranch in the country owned a huge clump of giant bamboo and offered us all we could use. Twice we worked from morning until night at sawing down and trimming stems, many twenty feet long. We brought them home lashed to our trailer (where they leaped and thrashed about like mad things when we drove around the curves), and we used them in many ways in our garden.

They made a handsome open fence along the canyon edge, giving a feeling of security to the timid and in no way shutting out the view. Split, and applied perpendicularly, the canes made an interesting finish for the top half of the lathhouse; and furnished the roof, as well. Trelliswork for sweet peas and plant stakes made of bamboo are good looking and long lasting; from heavy canes four inches in diameter to pencil-thin ones.

So, from a purely altruistic standpoint, we felt justified in offering our

(Continued on Page 5)



# What to Do About Abelia

By ROLAND S. HOYT

Many plants have been so long in use about the garden that they are taken for granted along with their faults and accepted without question as to improvement in culture or control. Here is a general purpose shrub of the first order, wanting only proper direction to fit it supremely well for many garden uses. It is known by all gardeners, universally planted and almost without exception ill-treated. It has been said that doctors bury their mistakes. Gardeners do the same via the pickup truck. But here is a positive individual that refuses 6x6 sanctuary and insists on survival in whatever form or condition the gardener allows or demands.

The plant makes a good hedge and as such requires consistent shearing. Sheared as a shrub, it indicates a lack of understanding on the part of the gardener or misplacement in the cultural scheme. It will grow in the shade, but doesn't want to, and the price paid is some or all of that delightfully shining, bronzy sheen of the foliage and spare, lanky stems looking around for a better spot. It wants drainage, little if any fertilizer and is very likely to receive too much irrigation in late spring and summer. This is the outstanding error in handling this shrub and brings about that superabundance of long slender crown suckers, those cane-like shoots springing up almost overnight to take strength and substance belonging to the structural stems and the blooming.

More than two or three of these canes in one season is too many in view of an orderly progression in growth and maximum production. The surplus should be cut out as low down as convenient with a knife or better, broken aside with the finger as the tip emerges. A certain hard-succulent stage permits of pulling out, bud-root and all which stops the growth attempt and leaves the base of the plant freer of dead stubs. Those that are left should be held back by successive pinchings, thus diverting this unbounded energy into the older stems and their flowering laterals. As a result, the blooming will be superior, each dropping flower leaving be-

hind it reddish bracts which accumulate over the season for color into winter as potent and effective as many another flowering species.

January or February is the time for a regular pruning, removing one to three of the older stems entirely to compensate for the newer wood coming on. At the same time reduce others for an exterior effect of bright high-light and shadow. Note the structure of these stems, the nodes or bulges where the lateral branches originate and the short length between which is known as the internode. This latter area does not throw new growth and if left below a cut, dies back to the next node to persist as an unsightly dead stub . . . always cut just above the node.

To make the most of *Abelia*, then, see that it does not receive too much water, excessive shade or too much fertilizer. Prune at the right time of the year for vigor, continual beardless prime, self-containment and watch the extra color build up for winter. Know what a satisfaction the shrub can really be . . . a spreading fountain of radiant light, delicate coloring and glorious good nature.

## Troublesome Plants

(Continued from page 4)

jungle to local gardeners who were honing for bamboo, and ran an "ad" in the papers proffering clumps free for the digging. We were honest in warning the ten or twelve who came in answer to the advertisement that bamboo is pernicious, injurious and destructive, if left to its own devices. We had found the skeletons of five good-sized guava bushes, entirely strangled by those graceful stems.

No one who has tried to chop out live bamboo will ever forget the experience. By contrast, he will look forward to digging out a mess of Bermuda grass with pleasant anticipation. And one who has never "rassled" with bamboo roots has no conception of what a fiendish temper Mother Nature was in, the morning she devised that root system. We hear airy comments to the effect that a crowbar inserted under a clump, with slow

pressure brought to bear, would surely bring it right out of the ground. Far from it; one might as well try to lift out one of the Plaza palms by setting a crowbar under it.

The Hotel del Coronado solved the bamboo problem neatly not long ago by having a construction company bring in a huge truck crane; chains were looped around one clump at a time, the power was put on, and inexorably, it lifted the roots into the air.

The bamboo seekers who came to our garden used every type of heavy tool—pinch-bars, mattocks, spades, heavy tree-saws, pickaxes. The method that seemed to bring the best results was to saw off the canes, (one thirty-foot one was taken home for a radio aerial) and then, by dint of long, hard chopping, a piece of rooted stem would be severed from the clump. Then the other tools were brought in to play to force it out of the ground.

We discovered that a gardener who worked in the neighborhood had been supplying tuna fishermen for some years with the short heavy type of poles they use for their "jig fishing," from our bamboo jungle. "Grow your own fish poles" isn't a mere figure of speech in this vicinity. And we still think that, along an alley, in a chicken yard, to screen unsightly spots, to give that tropical background, bamboo is the ideal quick-growing plant. Wouldn't you like a clump? Free for the digging!

The Britannica speaks highly of bamboo, listing scores of ways in which its many parts are used in construction, and for food. We quote: "The shoots of the edible bamboo are being increasingly used for food, especially in spring salads." This, in reference to its planting and use in this country. We have tried the shoots of our variety of bamboo, serving it both raw and cooked. Perhaps it isn't the edible kind; or perhaps because of the well-known aversion of the American male for new foods (page Dr. David Fairchild) no encores were demanded. A. R. Wallace, in "The Malay Archipelago" calls bamboo one of the most wonderful and beautiful productions of the tropic, and one of Nature's most valuable gifts to uncivilized man. Our high degree of civilization as evidenced by today's enterprises no doubt accounts for the general lack of appreciation of that loveliest of grasses, the bamboo.



# Alfred D. Robinson Page

from CALIFORNIA GARDEN, FEB., 1930

February is the month to begin operations for the summer display of the Tuberous Begonia. At its end the tubers will begin to sprout and should be potted. There is an absurd but widespread belief that tuberous Begonias are hard to grow, when just the opposite is the fact, and this goes for hundreds of other Begonias, which are by nature quite hardy, of course within certain limits. This week I have had the pleasure and privilege of listening to a gentleman who had spent much time in Central and South America, which is not of itself extraordinary, but it is strange that he should be a botanist and plant lover and had taken particular notice of the Begonias he met and made a mental note of location, climate, etc. This informant found the Begonias in what he termed the monsoon district, one of definite wet and dry seasons and not in the rain forest area. Which meant that they nated in quite temperate locations and some he found where definite frost occurred, these latter being of the thick stemmed sorts that lost all their leaves in the cold season. He emphatically stated that it was his conviction that in the United States the Begonia was very much overcodled, like a few other things not all of them plants. This information was forthcoming after I had stated that through a long term of culture I had arrived at believing the Begonia to be a fairly hardy plant having started with the idea that it was a tender exotic. I wish I were able to give a full account of what I heard from this man who had seen the Begonia in its native haunts, naked and unafraid so to speak. I never felt such a rank amateur but so far as I can recollect I made only one break, but then after that I kept pretty still. He had been describing a Begonia that had never been near Roscroft and I mildly suggested it might not have been a Begonia, when he replied, "of course I know nothing of Begonias except as I have seen them growing, but I am sure it belonged to the Begoniaceae."

I would not give you the idea my explorer acted a bit superior for he did not, but he did in a very quiet way

exude knowledge of plants, chemistry, photography, and what not that was so far over my head that I was dumb and I fear acted that way. I am looking now at some formulas he gave me to make seed sprout in three weeks that ordinarily takes six months and the only thing that I can identify is H<sub>2</sub>O which from buying it expensively at the druggists I have learned to be water.

I have not forgotten about those tuberous which should be handled this month. There are many kinds of these Begonias, singles, doubles, frilled, crested, hanging basket type, etc., and in all colors except blue. The treatment for all is similar. The tubers should be half buried in moss, sand, leafmold, whichever you like or is handiest, and placed in a warm shaded place and kept moist when they will start, like children going to school, rather unevenly. When the sprout is an inch or so up, pot in a small pot with the top of the tuber just under the surface, water well and then not again till growth is active. That is a sort of predigested formula, now for the footnotes. The top of the tuber is the depressed side, they won't grow worth a cent upside down. A good pottin mixture is half leafmold, a quarter loam and a quarter sharp gravel with a dash of bonemeal and a sprinkling of charcoal. The advice to use a small pot is because they do not seem able to use a large one till the root system has developed and at least one shift seems to be advisable if not necessary. Under-potting is much less dangerous than over-potting. When you go shopping for tuberous don't let size influence you. The size of the tuber is apt to be in inverse ratio to the bloom, one from an inch, to inch and a half is a better bet than one twice that size. Expert growers for exhibition prefer an inch and a half tuber. Tubers should be smooth and round with a definite depression on top and should have good depth; a shallow one is not good. A tuber throws its best flowers in its second and third years, after then the plant may be larger but the blooms are inferior.

The Tuberous Begonia can be grown by any one, almost anywhere,

if they are shaded from direct sun and kept in a fairly moist atmosphere. If grown in pots, the pots should be plunged in the soil or put in another container large enough to allow of a padding of moss or other absorbent packing.

There has been a definite threat of our national trait to worship bigness and the large double tuberous have been the popular favorites. These, unquestionably, gorgeous things have not, however, the artistic charm of the singles and other types more modestly proportioned. The wholly charming little yellow single Pearcei with its velvety mottled foliage can grow under one of the big doubles without touching a leaf and far the loveliest of the hanging type in my opinion was a small buff single. Perhaps the threat spoken of above has already passed, for all my Pearcei tubers have gone already.

## Camellia Hedges

If you have ever seen a hedge of Camellias, you will agree that it was an unforgettable sight—a hedge that was really different!

## RAINFORD Flower Shop



CUT FLOWERS

Flower Designs

2140 Fourth Avenue  
SAN DIEGO 1

# Kate Sessions Page

from CALIFORNIA GARDEN, 1930

## TREE STAKING

Before the winter comes is a good time to restake and retie young trees and large growing shrubs. The stake should always be placed on the leeward side of the stem, so the tree will lean against the stake and not away from the stake. Most stakes are set on the windward side so the tree leans away from the stake, which is entirely wrong. Besides setting the stakes on the leeward side the ends of the branches on the leeward side should be frequently nipped off, but do not cut the branch off. The branches on the windward side or toward the prevailing breezes should be allowed to grow longer as these heavier and longer branches help to hold the tree more erect. If you begin with a small tree and trim as directed, a stake is seldom necessary for the long branches to the windward and shortened branches to the leeward will keep the center stem erect.

A tree should carry every branch it bears from the ground up but keep them shortened off at the ends. The more leaves the greater the growth. When the tree is large enough to walk beneath its higher branches and it is to be a street tree or a shade tree in your garden, then and not until then should the lower branches be cut off. These many lower branches are practically short from the constant nipping back which has induced the more rapid growth of the main and central stem. It is a great mistake to allow a tree that is to become a shade tree to develop low down on the trunk a second strong stem.

In planting a tree be sure to investigate its matured size and so place it that when it is grown it will have sufficient room and be a credit to its home and surroundings. The main necessity is a well-prepared hole with good drainage and a tall stake pointed so it can be firmly set. The tyings should be changed once a year at least while the tree is young. Never use wire unless covered by a short piece of old hose. This is best used when the trees become larger. Most trees will be self-supporting after two or three years when the main stem is developed.

## FUCHSIAS

San Francisco has long been famous for her fuchsias—but San Diego can be proud of the success attained here when a partially shaded location is selected and a regular fall pruning is attended to. A well-grown fuchsia is a beautiful plant both in grace and flower but a neglected plant is a real eye sore—without shape, untrainable.

A fuchsia's growth must be directed while the growth is soft and tender for when the branch becomes matured and hard it is unbendable and very brittle. Each plant should have a good stake either 3, 5 or 8 feet long, depending on the height that you wish the plant to attain. A straight and central main stem with side branches on either side with not too long a growth makes a symmetrical plant and the side branches can all be cut back to within two to four inches of that central stem or backbone in the fall.

If you want a rounded or bushy plant then the central stem must be nipped back and all the side branches nipped back or headed in quite severely so you will develop a rounded or ball-like plant. This nipping back of the end of all the branches makes the plant grow into a ball-like shrub. The smaller growing varieties are best for this sort of training.

The half tender ends are the best slips to grow—in clean coarse sand and semi-shade—as beneath a bush. The hard wooded slips grow fairly well in the winter season.

Standard or tree-like plants should be popular on the north exposure, and as many a good home faces north they will make a choice formal plant for such a place. The plant must be kept growing perfectly straight to the desired height and then the top nipped off and branches will form which must be headed in frequently—first when 6 to 8 inches long in order to form the round and compact head of the desired size.

Flower shows should encourage the growing of fuchsias in pots and in full bloom for cut fuchsias are quite a failure for a display.

Fuchsias will stand considerable wind, will grow well near the sea and are in flower for a very long period.

## Hardenbergias

Hardenbergias are Australian plants that are excellent for this locality as they are drouth resistant and winter bloomers. *H. Comptoniana* is an excellent vine, in full bloom in March to May. Its foliage is dark green and the sprays of flowers 6 inches or more long—a fine rich violet color—like a spray of tiny pea blossoms. The vine needs a good heavy trimming when the flowering season has passed and then it makes a rapid growth during the summer—sets its flower buds in November and December, ready for the winter blooms. Owing to its good foliage and violet colored flowers it is an excellent vine near a door or gate and on the shady side.

*Hardenbergia monophyllia* is a hardy shrub—winter bloomer like her vining cousin. Leaves are single and entire and flower spikes not over 3 inches long and are borne in abundant groups. The color of the flowers is white, lavender and light pink. This variety can be grown as a semi-vine if properly trained and supported, but it is most useful as a shrub. Young plants are in bloom now.

These Hardenbergias are called the West Australian Lilacs in their native land, Western Australia.

# SNAILS

## SLUGS

CUTWORMS  
GRASSHOPPERS  
SOW BUGS

Kill them this  
handy NEW way

# 'BUG-GETA' PELLETS



Use Pellets instead of meal bait. Easy to scatter everywhere without tramping over garden beds. Sold by dealers everywhere.

Clean, Handy and SO Effective

# Gleanings . . . . .

By IDA L. BRYANT

*Golden Gardens* is a thoroughly satisfying little magazine. For one thing, it is printed on "slick" paper, which means that the always-interesting photograph of a native or garden subject that graces the cover is clear-cut and detailed. There is a good description accompanying it.

In looking through some of last year's copies, one finds these out-of-the-ordinary topics: Ivy Geranium Varieties listing THIRTY-TWO named varieties available at nurseries in California today, according to the writer. What a find! Ivy geraniums are exactly right for some spots; but we confess we've never known the names of even the three varieties we have grown, with colors that seemed to clash wherever we put them.

An article on herb culture "for use and for delight" gives minute directions for growing and cutting—just the thing for the garden file, for no two are treated alike.

And here is the simple inexpensive treatment that removes ants with a single application, oh goody! We are getting fed up (more so than the ants) with those sticky bottles. Calcium cyanide is the answer.

Roadside Development, a well-written article that could bear reprinting in its entirety in the California Garden. Does our Floral Association take the interest that it should in our street and county road planting? It is the one body of informed gardeners that should keep track of what is going on, and take group action when either praise or censure is indicated.

Some Reflections by a noted California gardener of more than fifty years' of experience should be required reading for the city department that picks out our street trees.

And here is information that helped us identify the pest that was ruining the blooms of some of our choice (don't laugh) geraniums—the vibrant Maxine Kovalesky among them. It is a fawn-colored moth about five eighths of an inch long, that visits the geranium buds after dark.

It is the tobacco budworm, long a serious pest of tobacco in the south. Spraying or dusting frequently with lead arsenate, calcium arsenate or cryo-

lite is the remedy.

The director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens tells of Channel Island plants native to that group, off the coast, from San Clemente Island on the south to San Miguel on the north, west of Santa Barbara. One plant in particular sounds like a real treasure: the Island Bush Snap-dragon, *GALVESIA SPECIOSA*. The ubiquitous nurseryman has discovered it too, we find; it is listed in one of the late catalogs, and we won't be happy till we get it.

*Desert Plant Life* is another good little California publication, coming from Pasadena. Like *Golden Gardens* it is a little eight-page magazine on coated paper. Instead of the photograph of a fine native or garden specimen, this little six by nine goes in for color; the cover, different each month, goes through every color of the spectrum.

Does the gardening fraternity know what an intense interest there is in cactus "and other succulents" throughout the country? Lively societies holding shows, publishing papers, establishing exhibits in the parks; middle west cactophiles (their own name) especially seem to be up and coming. The nomenclature is something to make one's head swim; and common names are frowned on, as they should be in all gardening.

Have our readers ever noticed how many "bluebells" there are, across the length and breadth of this country? I have made it a point lately, when talking gardening with people from other states (and that means most every body in California) to ask whether they had bluebells growing in their old homes. Invariably they had, and enthusiastically describe them. There have never been two alike; and no one has ever seemed to recognize what WE called bluebell or harebell, a tiny purplish bell swaying on wiry stem. They grew out of little crevices in the limestone cliffs along eastern Wisconsin rivers and beyond a doubt, are the true bluebell. "Everybody's out of step but our Jim!"

Several copies of *HORTICULTURE* at hand have much of interest for any gardener, though the winter gardening

program in Massachusetts is quite different from ours here. A late fall issue has letters from all over New England giving reports on new vegetable introductions "Tampla" seemed to evoke varied response; some planters of this new type of "greens" spoke of it in glowing terms, others were decidedly uncomplimentary. "Butternut squash" seemed to be universally liked; it is apparently the smaller type of winter squash, but may be eaten when young as a summer vegetable. The "acorn" or "Des Moines" squash offered us out here the last year or two has been disappointing with flesh thin and watery. Anything with such a pretty golden color and such handsome scallops should really have flavor to match.

*HORTICULTURE* has a fine article on terrariums, or miniature gardens, as provided by eastern garden clubs for the service men and women in hospitals. A special container has been designed that will take very little room; it measures about six by eight by two inches (like a book set up on its bound edge). The sides are of glass and the bottom and ends of wood, and there is a glass cover for the top, held in place by two strips of wood. A minimum of material will produce a good effect, the correspondent writes with vegetable seed planted close to the glass, little ferns and easily rooted cuttings, outdoor scenes with bits of berried shrubs, etc. It seems like a grand project for garden groups; and as the containers in this size and style cannot be bought it would need the services of some men who like to make things, as well. Perhaps the convalescents who are doing handcraft and being taught various skills for their therapeutic value, could turn them out for fellow-patients in even more need of healing.

*HORTICULTURE* has something interesting on every page; there are many short articles, many letters from correspondents, and good photographs and illustrations. It is carefully edited and on a higher literary plane than a lot of us; but never, never stodgy.

Two English garden magazines have come to hand lately, through the kindness of Mrs. Alfred R. Robinson, now living at Fallbrook. *GARDENING ILLUSTRATED* headlines Some Good Garden Lilies, in which the author begins by saying "Let it first

(Continued on page 11)



# Meetings of Floral Association

By MYRTLE L. CARSE

Round Table Meetings for variety, proved so popular with the members, that Mrs. Greer, our President, intersperses them throughout the year, and asked Mr. E. M. Albright, of Albrights' Seed and Garden Supply Store to act as Mentor for the November Meeting.

Mr. Albright said that most customers want to buy more seed than they have land for growing and stressed continuation of crop rather than too large plantings at the beginnings. Some winter vegetables were recommended. Replies to questions asked were to the effect that; "Experiments have proved that well fertilized snapdragons are less likely to rust; tulips will grow in north-side beds of leaf mold, and good fresh barnyard and chicken fertilizer will discourage nematodes." Sulph-Ex was highly recommended as a spray for mealy bug, scale, etc.

December is our Plant Exchange and Christmas Party Meeting. This year, Mr. Roland S. Hoyt, Landscape Architect, who compiled and arranged, "Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions," which tells gardeners fortunate enough to live in those sections of our country, just what to plant where and how, discussed the berried shrubs from Balboa Park used in the decorations, namely, *heteromeles arbutifolia*, (Toyon, or Christmasberry), *pyracantha*, and *cotoneaster*. Other ornamentals recommended for decorative purposes were *artemisia*, *prunus*, *smilax*, *osmanthus ilicifolia*, *quercus agrifolia*, *photinia serrulata*, and *phoradendron flavescens*, (Mistletoe), which he said could be grown as a parasite on willow, poplar, or sycamore, by slitting the bark underneath the branches and rubbing in the seed. Refreshments consisting of fruit-cake, home-made cookies, and of course, followed the plant exchange.

Our own Mrs. Neff K. Bakkers, whose Catalogue bears the slogan; "Drought Resistant Plants, from Over the World to the World Over," brought flats of growing plants and boxes of specimens from her nursery, the Knickerbocker Cacti and Succulent Gardens, to illustrate her talk on "Col-

or in the Winter Garden," for the January Program. Lacking transcription, the speaker's spontaneous wit, intermingled with the history and origin of the different species, cannot be conveyed to those not present.

Commencing with the exotic *strelitzia reginae*, commonly called the "Bird-of-Paradise flower," we learned it had been named for the wife of George III, a patroness of botany. Descriptions of some of the succulents follow: "The most flamboyant things now are the aloes. *Aloe Vera*, used for X-ray burns; *A. Cameronii*, foliage colored as well as flowers; *A. ciliaris*, the climbing aloe, with exquisite christmas-candle-like blooms; *A. robusta*, blue-green; *crassula* from South Africa, no pest or disease, but sensitive to extreme cold. *Euphorbia splendens*, (Crown of Thorns) this plant was lost for one hundred and thirty-five years and found in Mrs. Bakkers' garden. *Kalanchoe*, from Madagascar; *k. Behrensii* most satisfactory; *Echeveria*, named after a Mexican Botanist; *E. Leucotricha*, discovered three years ago in Mexico, used as a hanging-basket plant. This and variegated *kalanchoe* need partial shade, as do most variegated plants. The *sedum* appear to rival the rainbow in color, and the *cotyledon*, especially *Cotyledon Orbiculata* var. *macrantha*, with its umbrella-like cluster of red blooms, is a lovely Christmas plant."

Stimulated by Spring Catalogues of California Natives, Mrs. Greer decided the February Meeting a most opportune time for the Floral Association to renew its interest in the wild flowers of its own state, which are unrivaled by those of any other.

One of our members, Mr. Charles Harbison, who has been collecting and taking colored pictures of these Natives for several years, brought specimens gathered from sea-level to the highest mountain tops, and from the desert highways to the most secluded valleys. We have seen colored pictures on previous occasions, but an unexpected pleasure was in store for us: Mr. Harbison's mother, Mrs. Carrie Harbison, who has been reproducing California natives in water color since

1876, loaned us her treasures, which were passed around for a close-up before the photographs were shown. Seeing the flowers this way was like becoming acquainted with someone to whom we had merely been introduced before, and when Mr. Harbison flashed a slide of color on the screen, telling us it was composed of red bush-monkey flower (*Mimulus*), owl's clover and cream cups, etc., we could picture each individual flower.

We regret to hear that Mission Bells, those little chocolate lillies, are becoming extinct—one of the beauties being sacrificed to the ever-creeping Housing Projects. Also that the Lemon Lily, once quite common on Palomar, is now rarely found. Our *Romneya Coulteri* (*Matilia* Poppy), has been taken to many foreign countries for cultivation, and few flowers are more satisfactory for our gardens and for cutting. *Mimulus* comes in several colors and can be grown from slips. This would be a welcome addition to any garden. *Godetias* have been cultivated for some time and few realize they are "just natives."

## SPRING? SPRING! SPRING.

Isn't it fun

Now we've begun

To wake up early

By the light of the sun?

To spring right up

As if shot from a gun

To work like mad

Till the job is done.

Then loaf and loaf and loaf . . .

## SAN DIEGO MUSEUM Horticultural Activities

Much of the Museum's scientific activity was related to the war effort, both in the providing of information of military value and also in helping the morale of patients in the Naval Hospital. Convalescent sailors have been regularly employed at the Museum and have proved themselves very useful, in addition to such benefit as they themselves may have received. They helped particularly in building up the Museum's herbarium of cultivated plants, a new enterprise which was started by Mrs. Higgins, our botanist, in 1944.

In press is an annotated list of all seaweeds known to occur on the coast of San Diego County. A manuscript has also been completed that covers the entire land flora of the County.

# Our 'California Garden' Friends

ASSOCIATE EDITOR, ALICE CLARK

It is with pleasure that we present articles this month from contributors who have done so much to help build this magazine in the past. Those of you who like to be first to grow new plants, will appreciate Mr. Huoh Evans' article on cymbidiums, which are so well established now that amateurs can be given the "go ahead" signal. Personally, when I think of Mr. Evans, I always recall his lovely tribute to Miss Sessions, which used to hang on the walls of our Floral home in Balboa Park.

Dr. and Mrs. Cockerell have been spending the winter in Palm Springs, where he is in charge of the Museum. In a note to the editor he adds:

"Our red sunflowers were in full bloom here at Christmas, and the desert plants will bloom in the winter if they are irrigated. Some one should make a systematic study of the effects of irrigation on the desert flora; it could be shown that their blooming period could be considerably prolonged under garden conditions.

One of our winter bloomers (under garden conditions) here is a very pretty little Mexican vine called *Mina lobata* or *Quamoclit lobata*. It is a member of the *convolvulus* family but the flowers are not at all like those of a *convolvulus*. It comes up readily from seed. *Cassia splendida* has come very well from seed here. There are great bushes full of yellow flowers, raised by Jack Lawrence in the garden of the Oasis Hotel."

In his recent talk on wild flowers for the Floral Association Mr. Harbison also wished more people would cultivate wild flowers and observe their happy response to civilization. Get out your catalogues of Purdy, Paine and Roundtree!

Miss Higgins always gives us a fine monograph on our native flora. This one makes us long for the open road again and for a little path that took us to the reservoir at the top of a hill in Pine Valley, where the penstemon were breath-taking in their spring beauty. We do appreciate and encourage her work on the Herbarium. Mr. Jerabek's spare time is being devoted to the same cause (in addition

to his contribution of the extensive material he had already mounted and classified), so we must reconcile ourselves to missing his articles for a while.

Miss Sessions' keen interest in trees is attested by her own planting of the few avenues we have devoted to them, as the Sixth Street palms. Apropos of those in the Plaza on Broadway, she wrote as follows, shortly after the death of one of them fell:

"I believe that all the coco palms in the city that show diseased, broken down and decayed bark in patches are the result of a dried out and starved condition due to a lack of water and to some extent, fertilizer. In many plants that I have been observing that I planted in extra well prepared holes and in good soil sections, I have not been able to find any defective or diseased trunks. The Plaza palms were well planted in 1927, but the lawn watering only may not have been sufficient and *there is much paving thereabouts.*"

The italics are mine! Must we have a repetition of the sad accident of 1930 before the Plaza palms are given space for food, drink and air?

Editorially, we miss Silas Osborne's hand at the plow as we broadcast our seeds of request for more articles for our California Garden, and cultivate the good will of our seasoned crop of regular contributors, for whose steady harvest we give thanks. Members of the Floral Association send Mr. Osborn their best wishes for a speedy convalescence.

## MARCH MEETING

Members of the Floral Association will have a double treat at their next meeting at 2772 Fourth Street, Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p. m. Mrs. A. P. Carlton, of Reynard Way Camellia Gardens, will demonstrate how to select, grow and propagate fine camellias.

Mr. Charles B. Winkler, a blue ribbon exhibitor at our Chrysanthemum shows, will tell how to start and care for them. Bring chrysanthemum cuttings for exchange.

## Washington Street Nursery

~ ~ ~

Extra Large Stock  
of

## CAMELLIAS

~ ~ ~

Trees, Shrubs, Vines  
Plants, Shrubs and Seeds  
To Fill Your Garden

~ ~ ~

Fertilizer and Sprays  
To Keep It Growing

~ ~ ~

Extra Fine  
TUBEROUS  
BEGONIAS

~ ~ ~

Ask "Toni" for  
Kate Sessions Favorites:

Giraldton Wax-flower

Carolina Jasmine

Australian Fuchsia

Heather

Double Pink Leptospermum

Double White Spirea

Pelargoniums in quantity

~ ~ ~

EASY PARKING ON DOVE STREET

~ ~ ~

510 W. Washington St.  
San Diego, 3

## Penstemons

(Continued from page 3)

Track in Arcadia. I thought it well worth the journey of 3000 miles to see this display alone. In San Diego County it is common in the foothills and the mountain canyons. Along Highway 80 it is found from Pine Valley to Buckman Springs in abundance. Here at Buckman is the beginning of the Scarlet Bugler and where the two species are found, there is also to be found what is an apparent hybrid, *P. parishii*. This is a very ornamental species.

Another species occurring in the foothill canyons as *P. ternatus*, the Whorl-leaf Penstemon. Its stems come straight from the base in long branches bearing pale reddish flowers.

*P. heterophyllus*, the Blue Penstemon or its southern variety, *australis*, is often encountered in the foothill canyons. It is rather unique when compared with the others. It is a low growing plant with straight stems from the base, bearing slender leaves and large flowers called blue, but which shade into blue from a violet tinted base making a most attractive color scheme.

Quite apart from the others, both in habit and in color, is the yellow flowered bush Penstemon of the Chaparral. It is a compact bushy shrub, with small evergreen leaves, and leafy panicles of showy yellow flowers so resembling flowers of the snapdragon it is often called the Snapdragon Penstemon.

Any or all of these plants would be most desirable in cultivation. They are perennial, and for the most part have showy flowers, in shades that would lend them to almost any color scheme. Most of them would be most effective planted in clumps or masses. It would prove an interesting experiment to try what might result from cross fertilization. Altogether, of all our natives under cultivation, perhaps none would prove more desirable than the Penstemons.

Apology: We omitted naming the author of the article on the new eugenia in the issue of December, 1944, Roland S. Hoyt.—Ed.

## Gleanings . . . .

(Continued from Page 8)

be understood that my soil in my old garden at Eton was the worst in Great Britain, if not in the whole Empire." And the accompanying photographs show marvelous clumps of most of the fine species. *Lilium regale*, for example, up to six feet six with twenty flowers.

Other featured topics in GARDENING ILLUSTRATED: Fuchsias for Garden and Greenhouse; Repairing Damaged Trees; Californian Beauty, an article in Lester Rowntree's typically spirited style, with her fine photographs of desert subjects illustrating it; The Spring Cherry, "Loveliest of trees . . ."; and always, "Letters to the Editor."

POPULAR GARDENING, also of London, goes in more solidly for vegetables. It has pictures and helpful garden hints on every page. A few of the headings: Push on with Leek Planting; Do Spray Your Potatoes; Now Plant the Kales: For and Against the Dibber; Shallots Ready for Harvesting; Bull-necked Onions Can Be Avoided; Sow More Cabbage Lettuces for Salading. There are many admonitions regarding prompt planting of "allotments"; about being friendly and helping "the fellow on the next allotment." There are no moanings or complaints, in fact, no mention of the war. It is really true that gardeners live in a world of their own.

## SPRING INVENTORY

Think now, of all the plants you have used or abused or where at least you have failed to render out the last quarter measure of service. Find out what they want and provide, or pass on to another that can excite enough interest to insure your intelligent co-operation. If it's money . . . be paid out of the nurserymen's pocket. Is it love, or only a flirtation. Whatever the reward, make it bounteous in the joy of swelling buds and bursting flowers, fresh green and sound growth, for that's life and living in a garden.

—R.S.H.

## Alice Eastwood Honored

The California Academy of Sciences has just issued the Alice Eastwood Semi-Centennial Publications in its Fourth Series of Proceedings, honoring the 85 year-old botanist's fifty year term as a member of the Academy staff where she is active head of the botany department. Of interest to botanists and flower lovers, the 14 pamphlets include such titles as: "A Revision of the Genus *Fuchsia*," by Philip A. Munz, professor of botany at Pomona College; "Relations of the Temperate Flora of North and South America," by Professor Douglas Campbell; "Water and Plant Anatomy," by emeritus Professor George Pierce of Stanford. The series of publications is available to the public at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

## RED CROSS WAR FUND IN MARCH

Dig Down Deep to Keep  
It Growing!



## USE AGAINST GARDEN PESTS

SPRAY with EXTRAX Insect Spray against Aphids, Thrips, Leafhoppers & various other Insect Pests that infest flower and vegetable gardens. Mixes with cold water. Combines readily with GREENOL Liquid Fungicide to make a one-spray Insecticide-Fungicide. The "ORTHO" Rose Spray Kit contains enough of both to make 12 full gals. combination spray.





## THE OLD GARDENER SAYS:

*Start Now to—*

Prepare the plots for chrysanthemums, by deep digging and heavy fertilization. Take new cuttings and root in sand thus avoiding danger of root infection. Second choice are the rooted divisions that may be separated from the outside of the old plant. Throw the center portion away. Plant any time from April to July. When first set out water sparingly until August, when heavy feeding and watering is in order. Partial shade keeps the color better than too much light.

Get ready for dahlias. They like to be out in the open sunshine with good spacing to prevent mildew. Spade the earth deeply and enrich with well-rotted manure a month in advance. Be sure to place the stakes at the same time as the tubers to avoid breaking them.

Pot up tuberous begonias.

Take as many slips as possible of all types of begonias, cutting down the old growth and repotting, fertilizing and staking the new shoots.

Cut back fushias, if not already

done and pinch out new growth as Miss Session directed. Tip cuttings dipped in Rootone start quickly. Wash with heavy force of water to keep down aphids and thrips.

Shape your pelargoniums. Do not trim the budded branches but cut the blooms freely to make the bush compact. Small doses of fertilizer keep them coming.

Complete all unfinished potting. Azaleas and camellias are dormant when blooming, so are best moved then or shortly thereafter. Feed acid food mixed with damp peat and spread in thin layer over ground surface, away from trunk, as soon as flowers are gone and again in July. Never allow to dry out. Keep up campaign against slugs, ants and aphids.

Set out annual plants for later bloom. The yellow to red-brown colors of *mimulus luteus* are like orchids in the shade. The best border plant of all is *Nierembergia hippomanica*. If sheared, its fine needle-like leaves make a boxy border, covered with a solid mass of bright blue cup-flowers two or three times a year, and it is a hardy perennial. It likes full sun. Give plenty of room as tiny plants grow

eighteen inches across. *Torenia tourneri* is another small blue-flowered plant. It is an annual about eight inches high and very handsome when it is happy. It likes some shade. The bloom is somewhat like a snapdragon with a little wishbone in the throat. Try these for a change in addition to the regular annuals.

## SAFE RODENT POISON

An experimental planting of red squill bulbs, used in the production of a rare rodent "killer" has been made at the U. S. horticultural field station on Torrey Pines, Dean F. Palmer, of the county agricultural department, disclosed.

Palmer reported the supply of these bulbs came principally from Mediterranean sources but that since the war imports have been cut drastically. He said red squill is the only poison known that is effective against rats and at the same time harmless to humans and domestic animals.

San Diego Union, Jan. '45.

# POINT LOMA NURSERIES

## General Nursery Stock

FERTILIZERS — INSECTICIDES  
Everything for Garden Needs

We Specialize in Roses

(RECENTLY ACQUIRED ROSE STOCK OF TANNER NURSERY, RANCHO SANTA FE)

1308 GREENWOOD AVE.

SAN DIEGO, 10

Phone W-3588

(Linda Vista Road)